

## CHAPTER 4. STUDENT PREPARATION, REACTIONS, AND PLANS

### Introduction

One important aspect of this evaluation is how students prepare for the CAHSEE and also its impact on student attitudes, plans and preparation for high school completion and subsequent activities. To this end, we will be examining changes in student preparation, reactions, and plans over time.

In the Spring 2000 test administrations, participating students were 9<sup>th</sup> graders, many of whom were just learning about the requirement to pass both the ELA and mathematics portions of the CAHSEE in order to earn a high school diploma. We surveyed participating students at the end of each test to assess their immediate reactions and also to obtain information on their current plans for completing high school and going to college or seeking employment. These mini-surveys will be repeated in future administrations so that longitudinal trends can be identified and evaluated.

### Student Questionnaire

At the end of each test, students completed a brief questionnaire on their reactions to the test and their plans for high school and beyond. We examined the responses to these questions by gender, race, and disadvantage<sup>3</sup>, separately for students who did or did not pass each of the two tests. Tables 4.2 through 4.17 show the results.

One difference between the ELA and mathematics questionnaire respondents bears noting. As depicted in Table 4.1, a greater proportion of mathematics examinees responded to the questionnaire than did ELA examinees (86% versus 73%, respectively). This may be due, in part, to the length of the ELA test. Some students did not complete the second constructed response item on the ELA test, and therefore may not have reached the questionnaire items that followed. Not surprisingly, students who passed ELA were more likely to have completed the test than those who did not pass. Therefore, the ELA response patterns may be somewhat skewed due to missing data.

**TABLE 4.1** Number of Students Who Took Each Test and Number Who Responded to Questionnaire Items

Test	Number of Students Responding to Questionnaire*	Number of Students Taking Test	Percentage of Examinees Responding
ELA	269,843	369,387	73%
Mathematics	312,597	364,664	86%

\* These counts were based on number of responses to the first questionnaire item.

<sup>3</sup> EL students were identified by the language fluency indicator in the data file provided by the scoring company. Although we reclassified some students from “English learner” to “English fluent” for analyses in Chapter 5, the students were not reclassified for the analyses in this chapter as questionnaire responses for the reclassified students had not been matched to responses from students originally designated as EL.

Preparation. Question 1 asked the student to indicate steps taken to prepare for the test. The most common response was that a teacher or counselor told the student about the purpose and importance of the test. Table 4.2 reveals that, overall, 42% of ELA respondents indicated that a teacher or counselor had told them about the test. Within each demographic group, a larger proportion of those who passed the test than those who failed the test indicated this notice. Less than 9% of respondents reported taking a practice test. Slightly more students who failed the test indicated this option than students who passed the test. Approximately a quarter of respondents (24%) reported that a teacher had spent class time in test preparation. Over a third of respondents (38%) indicated they had done nothing to prepare for the test.

Responses to this question on the math portion of the test followed a similar pattern, as shown in Table 4.3. In general, preparation was slightly lower for the mathematics test than for the ELA test. A third of respondents (34%) indicated that a teacher or counselor had informed the student of the purpose of the test. Nine percent had taken a practice test; here, too, a slightly larger percentage of students who failed the test had practiced on a sample (9% versus 8%). A fifth of respondents (21%) had prepared in a class and 44% had done nothing to prepare for the mathematics test.

Importance. The next item asked students about the importance of the test to themselves, personally. Most students indicated that the test was at least somewhat important. Only 5% of ELA respondents (Table 4.4) and mathematics respondents (Table 4.5) indicated that the test was not important. Response patterns were similar across demographic groups, although EL students and economically-disadvantaged students were more inclined than other groups to rate the ELA test as very important. In general, students who failed each test were more likely than students who passed the test to rate it as very important.

Expectations for Graduation. Survey Question 3 asked students whether they thought they would graduate from high school. Most students (86% on ELA, 85% on math) responded that they would graduate. Thirteen percent on each test indicated they were not sure and 1–2% responded that they did not think they would graduate (Tables 4.6 and 4.7). Across demographic groups, students who passed the test were more optimistic than those who failed the test about their graduation prospects. On both tests, disadvantaged groups (i.e., economically disadvantaged, English learners, and exceptional needs students) were more inclined to indicate they were not sure (20–28%).

Along a similar line, examinees were asked whether it would be harder to graduate if the student had to pass a test like this. Tables 4.8 and 4.9 report responses from the ELA and mathematics tests, respectively. In general, approximately 28% indicated graduation would be a lot harder; 39%, somewhat harder; 22%, not much harder at all; and 9–11% indicated they did not know. Not surprisingly, individuals who failed the test were more likely to indicate that it would be much harder to graduate than did student who passed the test on their first try. Students with exceptional needs and EL students were more inclined to see graduation as harder to achieve, as were economically disadvantaged students, though to a lesser extent.

Post-High School Plans. Students were provided a list of options and asked to indicate which best reflected their post-high-school plans. Responses are reported in Tables

4.10 and 4.11. The most common response, across gender and racial/ethnic demographic groups and performance on this test, was to attend a 4-year college or university (approximately 60% overall). A greater proportion of students who passed the test than those who failed the test aspired to this option. However, although this option was still the most common choice, it was lower among the disadvantaged groups: near 50% for economically disadvantaged students and under 50% for EL and exceptional needs students.

**TABLE 4.2** Responses to Survey Question 1 by ELA Test Result

Question 1: How did you prepare for this test? (Check all that apply)

A. A teacher or Counselor told me about the purpose and importance of the test.

B. I practiced on a sample of the test.

C. A teacher spent time in class getting me ready to take the test.

D. I did not do anything to prepare for this test.

Group	Subgroup	Test Result	Number of Students	Percent of Students Answering Each Choice of the Question			
				A	B	C	D
Gender	Female	Pass	101,166	47.60	8.09	25.45	35.10
		Fail	33,700	37.82	9.36	26.53	32.39
		Total	134,866	45.20	8.41	25.72	34.43
	Male	Pass	84,847	39.53	7.91	23.58	43.39
		Fail	49,861	36.23	10.09	22.85	36.76
		Total	134,708	38.31	8.71	23.31	40.93
Race	Asian	Pass	18,724	46.54	8.05	21.06	40.06
		Fail	4,839	39.93	10.42	26.16	28.62
		Total	23,563	45.18	8.54	22.11	37.71
	African American	Pass	11,283	42.67	9.90	26.43	35.81
		Fail	8,575	37.47	11.53	25.63	31.99
		Total	19,858	40.42	10.60	26.08	34.16
	Hispanic	Pass	55,932	43.75	8.44	28.18	34.28
		Fail	49,462	37.28	9.90	25.00	32.98
		Total	105,394	40.71	9.12	26.69	33.68
	White	Pass	88,511	43.19	7.48	23.05	42.20
		Fail	16,495	33.89	8.40	21.64	44.54
		Total	105,006	41.73	7.63	22.83	42.57
Disadvantage	Economic	Pass	42,000	45.22	8.67	28.15	33.50
		Fail	40,976	37.30	10.28	25.67	32.35
		Total	82,976	41.30	9.46	26.92	32.93
	English Learner	Pass	11,297	45.50	9.05	28.57	29.01
		Fail	23,337	38.77	11.35	26.14	27.98
		Total	34,634	40.96	10.60	26.93	28.32
	Disabilities	Pass	6,248	39.76	8.05	24.46	41.21
		Fail	16,840	36.94	9.88	23.19	35.61
		Total	23,088	37.71	9.38	23.53	37.13
Overall		Pass	186,142	43.92	8.01	24.59	38.89
		Fail	83,701	36.86	9.80	24.33	35.01
		Total	269,843	41.73	8.56	24.51	37.68

**TABLE 4.3** Responses to Survey Question 1 by Mathematics Test Result

Question 1: How did you prepare for this test? (Check all that apply)

A. A teacher or Counselor told me about the purpose and importance of the test.

B. I practiced on a sample of the test.

C. A teacher spent time in class getting me ready to take the test.

D. I did not do anything to prepare for this test.

Group	Subgroup	Test Result	Number of Students	Percent of Students Answering Each Choice of the Question			
				A	B	C	D
Gender	Female	Pass	68,397	39.00	8.14	18.80	46.02
		Fail	86,675	34.58	8.63	24.01	39.06
		Total	155,072	36.53	8.41	21.71	42.13
	Male	Pass	75,198	30.08	7.57	17.69	54.17
		Fail	81,980	33.55	9.68	21.45	40.40
		Total	157,178	31.89	8.67	19.65	46.99
Race	Asian	Pass	19,732	34.55	8.56	14.08	52.18
		Fail	7,857	36.76	10.23	24.39	33.77
		Total	27,589	35.18	9.04	17.02	46.94
	African American	Pass	6,227	35.19	8.53	20.86	46.73
		Fail	17,645	34.88	9.88	24.01	36.55
		Total	23,872	34.96	9.53	23.19	39.21
	Hispanic	Pass	32,944	34.68	8.03	22.06	46.00
		Fail	92,529	34.01	9.62	23.40	38.01
		Total	125,473	34.19	9.20	23.04	40.11
	White	Pass	75,709	33.80	7.52	17.37	52.23
		Fail	41,295	32.79	7.55	20.69	46.29
		Total	117,004	33.44	7.53	18.54	50.13
Disadvantage	Economic	Pass	26,669	36.03	8.37	21.67	44.90
		Fail	72,592	34.58	9.83	24.26	36.54
		Total	99,261	34.97	9.44	23.57	38.79
	English Learner	Pass	7,305	35.63	10.57	20.89	41.40
		Fail	34,227	35.68	11.51	24.68	32.21
		Total	41,532	35.67	11.35	24.01	33.82
	Disabilities	Pass	3,950	30.96	8.35	18.66	53.16
		Fail	24,041	34.46	9.44	21.57	39.41
		Total	27,991	33.97	9.29	21.16	41.35
Overall		Pass	143,690	34.33	7.84	18.21	50.30
		Fail	168,907	34.07	9.14	22.75	39.71
		Total	312,597	34.19	8.54	20.67	44.58

**TABLE 4.4** Responses to Survey Question 2 by ELA Test Result

Question 2: How important is this test to you?

- A. Very Important  
B. Somewhat Important  
C. Not Important

Group	Subgroup	Test Result	Number of Students	Percent of Students Answering Each Choice of the Question		
				A	B	C
Gender	Female	Pass	101,084	69.45	27.63	2.87
		Fail	33,599	78.49	19.05	2.42
		Total	134,683	71.71	25.49	2.76
	Male	Pass	84,784	64.16	29.29	6.48
		Fail	49,743	69.26	24.21	6.43
		Total	134,527	66.04	27.41	6.47
Race	Asian	Pass	18,716	62.67	32.65	4.64
		Fail	4,831	75.84	20.89	3.17
		Total	23,547	65.37	30.23	4.34
	African American	Pass	11,275	75.77	21.15	3.01
		Fail	8,550	75.96	19.20	4.80
		Total	19,825	75.85	20.31	3.78
	Hispanic	Pass	55,887	76.63	20.92	2.40
		Fail	49,322	76.97	19.51	3.45
		Total	105,209	76.79	20.26	2.90
	White	Pass	88,439	60.49	33.26	6.18
		Fail	16,463	59.63	31.09	9.14
		Total	104,902	60.36	32.92	6.65
Disadvantage	Economic	Pass	41,969	77.39	20.18	2.38
		Fail	40,866	77.36	18.87	3.71
		Total	82,835	77.37	19.54	3.04
	English Learner	Pass	11,292	82.39	16.23	1.35
		Fail	23,264	81.40	15.72	2.83
		Total	34,556	81.72	15.89	2.34
	Disabilities	Pass	6,245	66.42	27.80	5.64
		Fail	16,770	68.28	24.17	7.44
		Total	23,015	67.77	25.15	6.95
Overall		Pass	185,997	67.03	28.39	4.52
		Fail	83,481	72.97	22.13	4.82
		Total	269,478	68.87	26.45	4.61

TABLE 4.5 Responses to Survey Question 2 by Mathematics Test Result

Question 2: How important is this test to you?						
A. Very Important B. Somewhat Important C. Not Important						
Group	Subgroup	Test Result	Number of Students	Percent of Students Answering Each Choice of the Question		
				A	B	C
Gender	Female	Pass	68,360	60.94	35.15	3.87
		Fail	86,578	74.33	23.24	2.38
		Total	154,938	68.42	28.50	3.04
	Male	Pass	75,148	57.89	33.74	8.30
		Fail	81,815	68.58	25.50	5.83
		Total	156,963	63.46	29.45	7.02
Race	Asian	Pass	19,719	56.87	37.07	6.02
		Fail	7,837	74.91	22.28	2.76
		Total	27,556	62.00	32.86	5.09
	African American	Pass	6,224	68.93	26.16	4.90
		Fail	17,609	75.31	20.93	3.69
		Total	23,833	73.65	22.29	4.01
	Hispanic	Pass	32,931	70.05	26.33	3.59
		Fail	92,387	75.52	21.38	3.07
		Total	125,318	74.08	22.68	3.20
	White	Pass	75,654	54.08	38.11	7.73
		Fail	41,249	60.87	32.35	6.66
		Total	116,903	56.48	36.07	7.35
Disadvantage	Economic	Pass	26,657	71.05	25.25	3.67
		Fail	72,469	76.32	20.43	3.21
		Total	99,126	74.90	21.73	3.33
	English Learner	Pass	7,303	76.11	21.37	2.48
		Fail	34,147	80.31	17.21	2.42
		Total	41,450	79.57	17.95	2.43
	Disabilities	Pass	3,946	57.25	34.92	7.78
		Fail	23,974	66.74	25.97	7.19
		Total	27,920	65.40	27.23	7.27
Overall		Pass	143,603	59.34	34.41	6.19
		Fail	168,644	71.52	24.35	4.06
		Total	312,247	65.92	28.98	5.04

TABLE 4.6 Responses to Survey Question 3 by ELA Test Result

Question 3: Do you think you will graduate from high school?

- A. Yes  
B. No  
C. Not sure

Group	Subgroup	Test Result	Number of Students	Percent of Students Answering Each Choice of the Question		
				A	B	C
Gender	Female	Pass	101,048	92.75	0.47	6.73
		Fail	33,560	66.81	2.97	30.13
		Total	134,608	86.28	1.09	12.56
	Male	Pass	84,751	71.09	3.52	25.31
		Fail	49,648	93.17	0.77	6.00
		Total	134,399	85.01	1.79	13.14
Race	Asian	Pass	18,704	92.18	0.49	7.30
		Fail	4,819	62.61	2.84	34.51
		Total	23,523	86.12	0.97	12.57
	African American	Pass	11,263	95.05	0.65	4.28
		Fail	8,526	79.84	2.72	17.26
		Total	19,789	88.49	1.54	9.87
	Hispanic	Pass	55,862	88.72	0.66	10.56
		Fail	49,242	65.93	3.30	30.69
		Total	105,104	78.04	1.90	19.99
	White	Pass	88,423	95.59	0.59	3.78
		Fail	16,452	76.37	3.60	19.94
		Total	104,875	92.57	1.06	6.31
	Disadvantage Economic	Pass	41,953	88.24	0.72	10.98
		Fail	40,812	66.52	3.19	30.22
		Total	82,765	77.53	1.93	20.47
	English Learner	Pass	11,287	82.81	0.83	16.28
		Fail	23,240	63.65	3.31	32.98
		Total	34,527	69.91	2.50	27.52
	Disabilities	Pass	6,244	88.53	1.28	10.06
		Fail	16,745	66.22	4.79	28.88
		Total	22,989	72.28	3.84	23.76
Overall		Pass	185,928	92.94	0.61	6.40
		Fail	83,348	69.36	3.30	27.26
		Total	269,276	85.64	1.44	12.86



TABLE 4.7 Responses to Survey Question 3 by Mathematics Test Outcome

Question 3: Do you think you will graduate from high school?						
A. Yes B. No C. Not sure						
Group	Subgroup	Test Result	Number of Students	Percent of Students Answering Each Choice of the Question		
				A	B	C
Gender	Female	Pass	68,334	96.21	0.39	3.37
		Fail	86,508	77.41	1.86	20.62
		Total	154,842	85.71	1.21	13.00
	Male	Pass	75,115	94.07	0.97	4.90
		Fail	81,758	75.21	3.16	21.53
		Total	156,873	84.24	2.11	13.57
Race	Asian	Pass	19,713	93.11	0.63	6.23
		Fail	7,833	68.88	2.60	28.41
		Total	27,546	86.22	1.19	12.54
	African American	Pass	6,222	96.83	0.64	2.52
		Fail	17,594	84.57	2.34	12.96
		Total	23,816	87.77	1.90	10.23
	Hispanic	Pass	32,915	92.92	0.61	6.41
		Fail	92,314	72.07	2.53	25.30
		Total	125,229	77.55	2.02	20.33
	White	Pass	75,625	96.48	0.76	2.73
		Fail	41,223	83.57	2.48	13.85
		Total	116,848	91.92	1.36	6.65
	Disadvantage Economic	Pass	26,638	92.01	0.68	7.27
		Fail	72,420	71.75	2.63	25.51
		Total	99,058	77.20	2.11	20.60
	English Learner	Pass	7,297	86.89	0.90	12.11
		Fail	34,141	66.46	2.88	30.56
		Total	41,438	70.06	2.53	27.31
	Disabilities	Pass	3,946	91.61	1.29	7.07
		Fail	23,956	68.37	4.85	26.65
		Total	27,902	71.66	4.35	23.88
Overall		Pass	143,544	95.09	0.70	4.18
		Fail	168,517	76.33	2.49	21.07
		Total	312,061	84.96	1.67	13.30

**TABLE 4.8** Responses to Survey Question 4 by ELA Test Result

Question 4: Will it be harder to graduate if you have to pass a test like this?							
A. Yes, a lot harder B. Somewhat harder C. Not much harder at all D. I really don't know							
Group	Subgroup	Test Result	Number of Students	Percent of Students Answering Each Choice of the Question			
				A	B	C	D
Gender	Female	Pass	101,013	20.76	44.59	24.35	10.15
		Fail	33,502	44.59	29.98	8.99	16.31
		Total	134,515	26.70	40.95	20.52	11.68
	Male	Pass	84,718	20.82	40.80	29.21	9.05
		Fail	49,606	42.09	30.86	11.73	15.20
		Total	134,324	28.68	37.13	22.75	11.32
Race	Asian	Pass	18,698	21.16	43.00	26.63	9.08
		Fail	4,818	51.45	25.55	8.68	14.22
		Total	23,516	27.37	39.43	22.95	10.13
	African American	Pass	11,265	21.37	43.82	25.75	8.87
		Fail	8,523	38.25	31.98	13.70	15.87
		Total	19,788	28.64	38.72	20.56	11.89
	Hispanic	Pass	55,833	27.33	45.96	17.14	9.47
		Fail	49,161	43.92	29.89	9.69	16.42
		Total	104,994	35.10	38.43	13.64	12.72
	White	Pass	88,392	16.31	40.24	33.28	10.03
		Fail	16,438	41.13	33.09	11.83	13.77
		Total	104,830	20.20	39.12	29.91	10.61
	Disadvantage Economic	Pass	41,931	28.05	45.36	16.80	9.65
		Fail	40,750	43.82	28.98	10.14	16.93
		Total	82,681	35.83	37.29	13.52	13.24
	English Learner	Pass	11,280	35.92	43.16	11.21	9.57
		Fail	23,171	46.96	26.88	9.33	16.72
		Total	34,451	43.35	32.21	9.95	14.38
	Disabilities	Pass	6,238	30.31	40.00	18.71	10.82
		Fail	16,729	48.29	26.11	8.31	17.16
		Total	22,967	43.41	29.88	11.14	15.43
Overall		Pass	185,860	20.79	42.86	26.57	9.65
		Fail	83,248	43.09	30.50	10.63	15.65
		Total	269,108	27.69	39.04	21.64	11.50

**TABLE 4.9** Responses to Survey Question 4 by Mathematics Test Result

Question 4: Will it be harder to graduate if you have to pass a test like this?

- A. Yes, a lot harder
- B. Somewhat harder
- C. Not much harder at all
- D. I really don't know

Group	Subgroup	Test Result	Number of Students	Percent of Students Answering Each Choice of the Question			
				A	B	C	D
Gender	Female	Pass	68,306	13.50	45.87	33.62	6.92
		Fail	86,462	41.39	39.65	9.04	9.76
		Total	154,768	29.08	42.40	19.89	8.51
	Male	Pass	75,087	16.51	39.95	36.62	6.79
		Fail	81,683	41.18	35.40	12.00	11.30
		Total	156,770	29.37	37.58	23.79	9.14
Race	Asian	Pass	19,706	16.00	42.13	34.86	6.96
		Fail	7,838	47.93	33.43	9.11	9.43
		Total	27,544	25.09	39.65	27.53	7.66
	African American	Pass	6,218	16.58	43.84	32.42	7.04
		Fail	17,582	37.44	37.73	13.92	10.78
		Total	23,800	31.99	39.33	18.75	9.81
	Hispanic	Pass	32,898	20.30	48.98	24.05	6.56
		Fail	92,214	43.09	36.47	9.04	11.28
		Total	125,112	37.10	39.76	12.98	10.04
	White	Pass	75,598	12.30	39.51	41.12	6.95
		Fail	41,217	37.83	40.69	12.33	8.97
		Total	116,815	21.31	39.92	30.97	7.66
	Disadvantage Economic	Pass	26,641	21.19	47.68	24.05	7.00
		Fail	72,342	43.20	35.05	9.67	11.96
		Total	98,983	37.27	38.45	13.54	10.62
	English Learner	Pass	7,291	27.65	44.97	19.85	7.39
		Fail	34,077	46.71	32.07	8.73	12.39
		Total	41,368	43.35	34.34	10.69	11.51
	Disabilities	Pass	3,942	23.06	40.74	26.56	9.36
		Fail	23,931	49.19	28.13	8.74	13.76
		Total	27,873	45.49	29.91	11.26	13.14
Overall		Pass	143,488	15.08	42.77	35.19	6.85
		Fail	168,395	41.29	37.57	10.49	10.51
		Total	311,883	29.23	39.93	21.85	8.83

TABLE 4.10 Responses to Survey Question 5 by ELA Test Result

Question 5: What do you think you will do after high school?

- A. I will join the military.  
 B. I will go to community college.  
 C. I will go to a 4-year college or university.  
 D. I will go to Vocational/Technical/Trade school.  
 E. I will work full-time.  
 F. I really don't know what I will do after high school.

Group	Subgroup	Test Result	Number of Students	Percent of Students Answering Each Choice of the Question					
				A	B	C	D	E	F
Gender	Female	Pass	100,994	2.17	10.54	74.47	1.18	1.11	9.30
		Fail	33,498	5.17	18.82	46.43	2.21	5.60	20.85
		Total	134,492	2.92	12.61	67.48	1.43	2.23	12.17
	Male	Pass	84,627	6.99	8.91	64.25	3.03	2.05	13.14
		Fail	49,582	13.74	14.38	35.70	4.22	8.99	21.65
		Total	134,209	9.49	10.93	53.70	3.47	4.61	16.29
Race	Asian	Pass	18,700	1.64	4.63	84.94	1.01	0.59	6.41
		Fail	4,816	4.61	15.03	57.35	2.51	5.56	14.29
		Total	23,516	2.25	6.76	79.29	1.31	1.61	8.02
	African American	Pass	11,260	3.43	6.40	79.44	1.94	1.34	6.07
		Fail	8,521	6.77	14.22	55.19	3.65	6.87	11.77
		Total	19,781	4.87	9.77	68.99	2.67	3.73	8.52
	Hispanic	Pass	55,808	5.69	11.75	62.92	2.37	2.08	13.91
		Fail	49,154	11.10	16.35	36.74	3.19	7.94	23.72
		Total	104,962	8.23	13.91	50.66	2.75	4.82	18.50
	White	Pass	88,312	4.20	10.24	69.42	2.07	1.48	10.96
		Fail	16,426	11.10	17.33	36.10	4.21	7.87	21.68
		Total	104,738	5.28	11.35	64.20	2.41	2.48	12.65
	Disadvantage Economic	Pass	41,920	6.02	10.90	63.85	2.39	2.19	13.23
		Fail	40,734	10.58	16.14	38.99	3.16	7.96	22.12
		Total	82,654	8.27	13.48	51.59	2.77	5.04	17.61
	English Learner	Pass	11,268	6.01	11.98	62.75	2.00	2.25	13.87
		Fail	23,174	9.72	16.38	39.93	2.96	7.40	22.88
		Total	34,442	8.50	14.94	47.40	2.65	5.71	19.93
	Disabilities	Pass	6,233	6.55	14.87	56.97	3.08	2.44	14.15
		Fail	16,730	11.42	18.18	33.43	4.02	9.79	21.65
		Total	22,963	10.10	17.28	39.82	3.76	7.80	19.62
Overall		Pass	185,750	4.37	9.80	69.81	2.02	1.54	11.05
		Fail	83,219	10.29	16.16	40.01	3.41	7.63	21.33
		Total	268,969	6.20	11.77	60.59	2.45	3.42	14.23

**TABLE 4.11** Responses to Survey Question 5 by Mathematics Test Result

Question 5: What do you think you will do after high school?									
A. I will join the military. B. I will go to community college. C. I will go to a 4-year college or university. D. I will go to Vocational/Technical/Trade school. E. I will work full-time. F. I really don't know what I will do after high school.									
Group	Subgroup	Test Result	Number of Students	Percent of Students Answering Each Choice of the Question					
				A	B	C	D	E	F
Gender	Female	Pass	68,286	1.49	7.32	79.80	0.93	0.62	8.75
		Fail	86,444	4.18	16.42	53.74	1.76	3.56	19.03
		Total	154,730	3.00	12.41	65.24	1.39	2.26	14.50
	Male	Pass	75,041	6.20	7.79	65.37	2.71	1.66	14.79
		Fail	81,643	13.11	13.47	37.67	3.98	7.69	22.68
		Total	156,684	9.80	10.75	50.94	3.37	4.81	18.90
Race	Asian	Pass	19,705	1.65	4.03	84.59	0.89	0.45	7.77
		Fail	7,826	4.10	12.78	59.79	2.24	4.54	15.67
		Total	27,531	2.35	6.52	77.54	1.27	1.61	10.01
	African American	Pass	6,215	2.67	4.23	81.74	1.80	0.92	7.40
		Fail	17,570	6.12	11.54	61.49	2.90	4.96	11.44
		Total	23,785	5.22	9.63	66.78	2.61	3.91	10.38
	Hispanic	Pass	32,888	5.38	8.66	66.02	2.25	1.51	14.92
		Fail	92,224	9.45	15.24	41.67	2.77	6.16	23.63
		Total	125,112	8.38	13.51	48.07	2.63	4.94	21.34
	White	Pass	75,549	3.99	8.39	70.76	1.98	1.26	12.12
		Fail	41,172	8.32	16.48	45.22	3.14	4.98	19.95
		Total	116,721	5.52	11.25	61.75	2.39	2.57	14.88
	Disadvantage Economic	Pass	26,631	5.44	8.19	66.76	2.23	1.66	14.45
		Fail	72,337	9.52	14.83	42.97	2.75	6.34	22.42
		Total	98,968	8.42	13.05	49.37	2.61	5.08	20.27
	English Learner	Pass	7,296	4.95	9.54	67.17	1.93	1.63	13.65
		Fail	34,087	9.37	15.65	40.41	2.47	6.42	24.89
		Total	41,383	8.59	14.57	45.13	2.37	5.58	22.91
	Disabilities	Pass	3,943	6.97	11.69	58.03	3.09	2.38	16.13
		Fail	23,917	10.82	17.83	34.13	3.80	8.81	23.10
		Total	27,860	10.27	16.96	37.51	3.70	7.90	22.12
Overall		Pass	143,422	3.96	7.57	72.24	1.86	1.16	11.92
		Fail	168,337	8.53	15.00	45.92	2.84	5.57	20.80
		Total	311,759	6.43	11.58	58.03	2.39	3.54	16.71

In a related question, students were asked how sure they were of their post-high-school plans. In general, respondents were evenly split between very sure and somewhat sure at about 43–44% each, and about 13–14% indicated they were not sure at all. Students who failed the test on their first attempt were less sure about their plans, as were EL students and exceptional needs students. Overall, students planning to go to a 4-year college were the most certain of their plans (55% very sure) and students planning to go into the military the next most certain (47% very sure). About 40% of the students planning community college, vocational-technical training, or working were very sure of their plans. These differences in certainty were consistent across all of the demographic groups.

TABLE 4.12 Responses to Survey Question 6 by ELA Test Result

Question 6: How sure are you about what you will do after high school?

A. Very sure

B. Somewhat sure

C. Not sure at all

Group	Subgroup	Test Result	Number of Students	Percent of Students Answering Each Choice of the Question		
				A	B	C
Gender	Female	Pass	100,972	48.06	43.18	8.69
		Fail	33,479	42.55	40.82	16.58
		Total	134,451	46.69	42.60	10.65
	Male	Pass	84,680	44.18	43.63	12.12
		Fail	49,528	39.93	41.20	18.81
		Total	134,208	42.61	42.74	14.59
Race	Asian	Pass	18,691	49.00	42.41	8.56
		Fail	4,811	43.21	40.47	16.28
		Total	23,502	47.81	42.01	10.14
	African American	Pass	11,264	62.55	31.68	5.68
		Fail	8,510	56.93	32.50	10.48
		Total	19,774	60.13	32.03	7.75
	Hispanic	Pass	55,796	42.58	46.46	10.92
		Fail	49,107	38.14	42.14	19.68
		Total	104,903	40.50	44.44	15.02
	White	Pass	88,361	46.34	42.83	10.75
		Fail	16,418	40.22	42.37	17.32
		Total	104,779	45.38	42.75	11.78
	Disadvantage Economic	Pass	41,907	44.04	45.57	10.34
		Fail	40,682	40.45	40.69	18.80
		Total	82,589	42.27	43.16	14.51
	English Learner	Pass	11,260	42.12	47.11	10.75
		Fail	23,160	39.18	40.45	20.33
		Total	34,420	40.14	42.63	17.20
	Disabilities	Pass	6,234	44.74	42.88	12.29
		Fail	16,694	42.15	38.66	19.12
		Total	22,928	42.85	39.81	17.27
Overall		Pass	185,781	46.29	43.39	10.25
		Fail	83,145	40.98	41.05	17.91
		Total	268,926	44.65	42.67	12.62

**TABLE 4.13** Responses to Survey Question 6 by Mathematics Test Result

Question 6: How sure are you about what you will do after high school?

A. Very sure

B. Somewhat sure

C. Not sure at all

Group	Subgroup	Test Result	Number of Students	Percent of Students Answering Each Choice of the Question		
				A	B	C
Gender	Female	Pass	68,294	48.37	42.95	8.63
		Fail	86,427	42.89	43.14	13.88
		Total	154,721	45.31	43.06	11.57
	Male	Pass	75,074	43.23	42.79	13.87
		Fail	81,632	39.65	41.88	18.38
		Total	156,706	41.37	42.31	16.22
Race	Asian	Pass	19,703	47.67	42.81	9.49
		Fail	7,828	42.17	42.88	14.83
		Total	27,531	46.11	42.83	11.01
	African American	Pass	6,215	61.05	31.86	6.97
		Fail	17,570	57.57	33.22	9.13
		Total	23,785	58.48	32.86	8.56
	Hispanic	Pass	32,898	42.17	45.59	12.17
		Fail	92,178	38.62	43.37	17.95
		Total	125,076	39.55	43.95	16.43
	White	Pass	75,581	45.78	42.20	11.92
		Fail	41,185	40.33	44.17	15.36
		Total	116,766	43.86	42.90	13.13
	Disadvantage Economic	Pass	26,635	43.03	44.66	12.25
		Fail	72,308	40.72	41.85	17.35
		Total	98,943	41.34	42.61	15.98
	English Learner	Pass	7,294	42.46	44.63	12.87
		Fail	34,068	39.00	40.91	20.01
		Total	41,362	39.61	41.57	18.75
	Disabilities	Pass	3,939	42.24	42.65	14.98
		Fail	23,905	41.89	38.94	19.06
		Total	27,844	41.94	39.46	18.48
Overall		Pass	143,463	45.67	42.87	11.38
		Fail	168,309	41.31	42.52	16.07
		Total	311,772	43.32	42.68	13.91



**Performance on the Test.** Students were asked how well they did on this test. They were provided two options: *I did as well as I could* and *I did not do as well as I could have*. Tables 4.14 and 4.15 indicate responses on the ELA and mathematics tests, respectively. Overall approximately three quarters said they did as well as they could. Students who passed the test on their first try were more likely to report this.

**TABLE 4.14** Responses to Survey Question 7 by ELA Test Result

Question 7: How well did you do on this test?

A. I did as well as I could.

B. I did not do as well as I could have.

Group	Subgroup	Test Result	Number of Students	Percent of Students Answering Each Choice of the Question	
				A	B
Gender	Female	Pass	100,255	82.95	17.00
		Fail	33,080	70.56	29.36
		Total	133,335	79.87	20.07
	Male	Pass	84,089	79.12	20.82
		Fail	48,986	66.68	33.25
		Total	133,075	74.54	25.40
Race	Asian	Pass	18,590	76.42	23.55
		Fail	4,752	68.77	31.21
		Total	23,342	74.86	25.11
	African American	Pass	11,185	82.20	17.75
		Fail	8,419	70.79	29.09
		Total	19,604	77.30	22.62
	Hispanic	Pass	55,321	79.79	20.16
		Fail	48,500	68.44	31.61
		Total	103,821	74.48	25.47
	White	Pass	87,801	83.16	16.78
		Fail	16,267	66.02	33.87
		Total	104,068	80.48	19.46
	Disadvantage Economic	Pass	41,558	79.98	19.96
		Fail	40,180	70.03	29.92
		Total	81,738	75.09	24.86
	English Learner	Pass	11,190	78.00	21.96
		Fail	22,870	69.67	30.28
		Total	34,060	72.41	27.55
	Disabilities	Pass	6,182	79.94	20.01
		Fail	16,536	69.28	30.61
		Total	22,718	72.18	27.72
Overall		Pass	184,473	81.20	18.75
		Fail	82,203	68.24	31.68
		Total	266,676	77.21	22.73

TABLE 4.15 Responses to Survey Question 7 by Mathematics Test Result

Question 7: How well did you do on this test?					
A. I did as well as I could.					
B. I did not do as well as I could have.					
Group	Subgroup	Test Result	Number of Students	Percent of Students Answering Each Choice of the Question	
				A	B
Gender	Female	Pass	68,053	74.78	25.15
		Fail	85,843	64.42	35.48
		Total	153,896	69.00	30.91
	Male	Pass	74,746	76.54	23.39
		Fail	81,028	65.87	34.03
		Total	155,774	70.99	28.93
Race	Asian	Pass	19,638	77.61	22.35
		Fail	7,782	69.58	30.38
		Total	27,420	75.34	24.63
	African American	Pass	6,181	74.75	25.11
		Fail	17,417	66.50	33.35
		Total	23,598	68.66	31.19
	Hispanic	Pass	32,737	73.76	26.19
		Fail	91,522	65.52	34.39
		Total	124,259	67.69	32.23
	White	Pass	75,308	76.22	23.70
		Fail	40,935	63.03	36.83
		Total	116,243	71.58	28.33
Disadvantage	Economic	Pass	26,530	75.44	24.52
		Fail	71,772	67.22	32.70
		Total	98,302	69.44	30.49
	English Learner	Pass	7,264	78.44	21.48
		Fail	33,796	68.49	31.44
		Total	41,060	70.25	29.68
	Disabilities	Pass	3,922	73.20	26.70
		Fail	23,731	66.56	33.32
		Total	27,653	67.51	32.37
Overall		Pass	142,894	75.70	24.24
		Fail	167,120	65.12	34.78
		Total	310,014	69.99	29.92

Finally, students who said they had not done their best were asked to indicate the main reasons they did not do as well on the test as they could have, choosing from a list including: nervousness, lack of motivation, inadequate time, test topics that they were never taught, test topics they had been taught but could not remember how to answer, and “other” reasons. Tables 4.16 and 4.17 report responses from the ELA and mathematics tests, respectively. On the ELA test, the most common response was nervousness (42% overall), with one of the largest demographic differences occurring between males (37%) and females (48%). On the ELA test, disadvantaged students reported more nervousness than the overall group did. A greater proportion of exceptional needs students indicated they had encountered test topics they had never been taught (34% versus 26% overall). On the mathematics test, the most common selections were topics that had never been taught (52%) and topics that were taught but the student had forgotten (47%). A higher proportion of exceptional needs students reported encountering untaught topics (57%) than average, whereas a lower proportion of EL students (48%) did so.

**TABLE 4.16** Responses to Survey Question 8 by ELA Test Result

Question 8: The main reasons I did not do as well on this test as I could have are (mark all that apply):

- A. I was too nervous to do as well as I could.
- B. I was not motivated to do well.
- C. I did not have time to do as well as I could.
- D. There are questions on this test that cover topics I was never taught.
- E. There are questions on this test that cover topics I was taught, but I did not remember how to answer them.
- F. There were other reasons why I did not do as well as I could have.

Group	Subgroup	Test Result	Number of Students	Percent of Students Answering Each Choice of the Question					
				A	B	C	D	E	F
Gender	Female	Pass	20,694	44.74	25.44	26.18	22.36	26.39	57.35
		Fail	13,699	53.27	22.56	22.34	27.68	28.01	46.04
		Total	34,393	48.13	24.38	24.77	24.36	26.99	53.31
	Male	Pass	20,239	32.28	32.15	25.03	24.14	22.72	58.05
		Fail	21,114	41.58	29.74	26.00	30.78	26.60	48.52
		Total	41,353	37.02	30.96	25.50	27.44	24.63	53.47
Race	Asian	Pass	4,969	35.84	25.38	28.48	21.78	21.04	58.17
		Fail	1,909	39.03	22.12	28.54	33.15	25.62	47.44
		Total	6,878	36.73	24.53	28.50	24.89	22.26	55.38
	African American	Pass	2,423	42.14	28.67	26.50	22.82	24.46	55.86
		Fail	3,382	49.85	29.01	26.10	30.87	26.02	49.87
		Total	5,805	46.63	28.86	26.27	27.42	25.34	52.55
	Hispanic	Pass	13,749	44.00	23.98	28.31	22.58	27.32	52.97
		Fail	21,084	48.59	24.42	25.20	29.15	27.87	43.43
		Total	34,833	46.77	24.24	26.49	26.48	27.64	47.50
	White	Pass	17,067	34.36	33.50	22.71	24.48	23.22	61.17
		Fail	6,777	39.49	34.52	21.51	29.34	25.58	57.16
		Total	23,844	35.81	33.78	22.38	25.83	23.87	60.10
Disadvantage	Economic	Pass	10,166	43.11	23.35	30.45	25.20	27.66	54.85
		Fail	16,697	48.58	24.48	26.44	30.87	28.39	44.76
		Total	26,863	46.51	24.03	28.04	28.64	28.10	48.92
	English Learner	Pass	3,151	47.38	18.13	27.67	29.96	28.50	49.66
		Fail	9,997	50.90	21.48	24.52	31.96	28.28	40.89
		Total	13,148	50.05	20.63	25.32	31.45	28.34	43.20
	Disabilities	Pass	1,509	42.48	29.82	23.37	28.68	27.57	60.44
		Fail	7,165	49.27	27.80	25.43	34.64	29.48	49.21
		Total	8,674	48.09	28.20	25.04	33.55	29.12	51.45
Overall		Pass	40,964	38.57	28.86	25.60	23.28	24.55	57.70
		Fail	34,872	46.18	27.14	24.66	29.68	27.14	47.61
		Total	75,836	42.07	28.11	25.19	26.12	25.69	53.40

**TABLE 4.17** Responses to Survey Question 8 by Mathematics Test Result

Question 8: The main reasons I did not do as well on this test as I could have are (mark all that apply):

- A. I was too nervous to do as well as I could.
- B. I was not motivated to do well.
- C. I did not have time to do as well as I could.
- D. There are questions on this test that cover topics I was never taught.
- E. There are questions on this test that cover topics I was taught, but I did not remember how to answer them.
- F. There were other reasons why I did not do as well as I could have.

Group	Subgroup	Test Result	Number of Students	Percent of Students Answering Each Choice of the Question					
				A	B	C	D	E	F
Gender	Female	Pass	18,003	19.52	16.71	4.32	46.81	60.76	32.55
		Fail	35,240	31.60	16.10	6.11	53.74	49.02	30.89
		Total	53,243	27.52	16.32	5.47	51.35	53.17	31.48
	Male	Pass	18,886	18.85	25.88	8.34	48.09	46.28	37.70
		Fail	33,093	30.70	23.31	12.04	54.24	38.25	34.73
		Total	51,979	26.40	24.28	10.63	51.98	41.28	35.87
Race	Asian	Pass	4,722	20.22	20.88	6.42	38.34	55.27	36.98
		Fail	2,829	29.62	18.81	10.39	51.77	49.25	32.34
		Total	7,551	23.75	20.14	7.84	43.39	53.06	35.32
	African American	Pass	1,651	18.90	20.00	6.26	47.32	52.91	34.87
		Fail	6,884	32.13	21.33	10.76	54.30	41.65	33.39
		Total	8,535	29.57	21.06	9.84	52.92	43.95	33.69
	Hispanic	Pass	9,312	23.25	18.17	7.04	47.39	54.37	33.28
		Fail	38,085	33.67	17.99	9.26	50.52	43.75	30.36
		Total	47,397	31.62	18.02	8.80	49.89	45.97	30.98
	White	Pass	18,831	16.95	23.37	5.99	49.95	52.34	35.61
		Fail	16,734	25.76	22.21	7.61	61.46	43.40	37.42
		Total	35,565	21.09	22.84	6.74	55.43	48.19	36.45
Disadvantage	Economic	Pass	7,104	34.27	17.59	7.23	48.56	55.18	35.93
		Fail	28,644	23.51	18.14	9.90	51.89	43.79	31.80
		Total	35,748	32.13	18.02	9.34	51.21	46.19	32.68
	English Learner	Pass	1,844	29.18	15.98	9.12	48.29	48.67	35.25
		Fail	13,856	39.11	17.68	10.83	48.45	41.83	29.54
		Total	15,700	37.95	17.47	10.61	48.43	42.69	30.28
	Disabilities	Pass	1,161	22.74	23.88	9.23	53.84	48.53	41.14
		Fail	10,107	36.81	21.89	13.64	57.82	36.98	36.97
		Total	11,268	35.36	22.11	13.15	57.40	38.28	37.44
Overall		Pass	36,928	19.18	21.40	6.37	47.46	53.43	35.20
		Fail	68,451	31.18	19.63	8.99	53.98	43.86	32.75
		Total	105,379	26.98	20.28	8.03	51.66	47.35	33.66

## Summary

In general, student responses to the post-examination questionnaire indicated that the vast majority of students recognized the importance of the test. Many had not prepared for the test, but for 9<sup>th</sup> graders this is perhaps not surprising. Students who passed the test on this first, early try were confident that they would graduate from high school. A larger proportion of disadvantaged groups (i.e., economically disadvantaged, English learners, and exceptional needs students) were unsure of graduation. Those who did not pass the test reported, for the most part, that graduation would be harder if they have to pass a test like this. Students with exceptional needs and EL students, and to a lesser extent, economically disadvantaged students, were more inclined to see graduation as harder to achieve because of the test.

Post-high-school plans were queried to establish a baseline for this ongoing evaluation. Responses to this question will be monitored carefully in subsequent test administrations to determine whether the CAHSEE may affect expected graduation and post-high-school plans.

In terms of curricular coverage of test content, the mathematics test seemed to present more unfamiliar materials than the ELA test as indicated by reasons given for low performance. One possible mitigating factor is that Spring 2001 examinees were 9<sup>th</sup> graders and thus may not yet have encountered some math concepts; responses to this item by 10<sup>th</sup> graders in Spring 2002 will be revealing. A slightly higher proportion of exceptional needs students reported encountering untaught topics than average, whereas a lower proportion of EL students did so. Students reported more nervousness regarding the ELA test than the mathematics test. We did not ask why students were nervous, but this difference was perhaps due to the inclusion of essay questions.